

Message Text

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ACTION TRSE-00

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TO SECSTATE WASHDC 9938

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E.9. 11652: N/A

TAGS:OVIO (SIMON, WILLIAM)

SUBJECT: SECRETARY SIMON'S VISIT TO ME

REF A. CAIRO 1476 B. STATE 27595

1. DCM, ACCOMPAINED BY CONTROL OFFICER, MET FEB 9 WITH GENERAL NABAWI, DIRECTOR OF PRIMIN'S OFFICE TO DISCUSS VISIT OF SECRETARY SIMON TO EGYPT MARCH 4-7. PRINCIPAL PURPOSE OF VISIT WAS TO ENLIST PRIMIN'S HELP IN OBTAINING HOTEL ROOMS REQUIRED ACCOMMODATE SECRETARY SIMON'S PARTY, BUT OPPORTUNITY WAS ALSO TAKEN TO REVIEW TENTATIVE SCHEDULE PROPOSED REFTEL.

2. GENERAL NABAWI WAS INFORMED THAT SECRETARY SIMON'S PARTY AND ADVANCE AND EMBASSY SUPPORT PERSONNEL WOULD REQUIRE RESERVATIONS OF ONE SUITE AND 60 ROOMS IN LUXOR MARCH 4-5 AND ONE SUITE AND 45 ROOMS IN CAIRO MARCH 6-7. WE INFORMED HIM THAT EMBASSY HAD ALREADY RESERVED ONE SUITE AND 20 ROOMS AT HILTON HOTEL IN CAIRO, BUT NEEDED ADDITIONAL TWENTY-FIVE ROOMS THERE. NABAWI SAID THAT HE WOULD TAKE CARE OF HOTEL PROBLEM, BUT NOTED THAT SOME ROOMS MIGHT HAVE TO BE OBTAINED IN HOTELS OTHER THAN HILTON BECAUSE OF LARGE NUMBER REQUIRED. EMBOFFS URGED HIM TO PUT AS MANY INTO HILTON AS POSSIBLE IN ORDER TO KEEP PARTY TOGETHER.

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3. IN REVIEWING TENTATIVE SCHEDULE (REFTEL A), NABAWI

SAID HE WOULD ARRANGE TO HAVE SECRETARY SIMON MET IN LUXOR AND THAT MINFIN ABU ISMAIL WOULD ESCORT HIM IN CAIRO. (AT LATER MEETING SAME DAY WITH MFA CHIEF OF PROTOCOL, IT WAS LEARNED THAT GOVERNOR OF LUXOR WOULD PROBABLY GREET SECRETARY SIMON THERE AS REP OF PRIMIN). WE ALSO ASKED THAT ARRANGEMENTS BE MADE FOR CUSTOMS AND VISA CLEARANCES AT LUXOR WHICH NOT NORMAL PORT OF ENTRY (REFTEL B). NABAWI WAVED HIS HAND AND ASSURED US THERE WAS NO NEED TO WORRY ABOUT CUSTOMS FOR "OUR FRIENDS." NABAWI BELIEVED APPOINTMENTS AND TIME SUGGESTED IN SCHEDULE INCLUDING EVENING MEETING WITH PRIMIN, COULD BE ARRANGED. HE CONFIRMED THAT PRIMIN WOULD HOST DINNER FOR SECRETARY SIMON EVENING MARCH 6 AND THOUGH THAT FINMIN ABU ISMAIL MIGHT HOST LUNCHEON THAT SAME DAY.

4. WHEN MEETING WITH PRIMIN MENTIONED, DCM TOOK OCCASION TO INQUIRE ABOUT STATUS OF GOODYEAR PROJECT, NOTING THAT SECRETARY SIMON MIGHT RAISE THIS MATTER WITH PRIMIN DURING THEIR DISCUSSIONS. NABAWI SAID HE WOULD LOOK INTO STATUS OF GOODYEAR PROJECT AND ALSO THAT OF POLYESTER FIBER PLANT (CHEMTEX/ DUPONT). RE LATTER, HE NOTED THAT PRIME MINISTER HAD SUGGESTED POSSIBILITY OF ESTABLISHING TWO POLYESTER FIBER PLANTS, ONE WITH FRENCH AND THE OTHER WITH AMERICANS.

5. GENERAL NABAWI ASSURED DCM THAT EVERYTHING WOULD BE TAKEN CARE OF FOR SECRETARY SIMON'S VISIT AND THAT PRIMIN WAS LOOKING FORWARD TO HIS ARRIVAL. EILTS

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